T.A English

The influence of the DA D2 antagonist (-)-eticlopride on cocaine AB - and DA D2 agonist-induced behavioral effects was investigated by means of two series of expts., in rats. In the first 10-day series, coadministration of (-)-eticlopride (10 and 50 .mu.g/ \bar{k} g, SC) always potently inhibited cocaine (15 mg/kg, IP)-induced hypermotility but did not modify the penile erection (PE)-enhancement produced by the drug at the first injection; it actually counteracted the inhibitory effect of subchronic cocaine on PE. In the second series, (-)-eticlopride, at the same doses, antagonized PE elicited by various DA D2 agonists at nonstereotyping doses; when, along with PE, stereotyped behavior was induced, only the latter was inhibited by (-)-eticlopride, which even increased PE.

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Use of dopamine autoreceptor agonists in the treatment of drug dependency ΤI

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BHT 920 (I) and SND 919 (II) and their acid addn. salts are dopamine autoreceptor agonists (i.e. decrease the synthesis and release of dopamine from cells of the mesolimbic and nigrostriatal system) and thus are useful in treatment of drug dependence mediated by dopamine release. By diminishing the post reinforcement of drug consumption resulting from dopamine release in these brain centers and the consequent euphoric inner reward, I and II prevent craving for the drug. The action of I and II is enhanced by their activity on supersensitive postsynaptic D2-dopaminergic receptors in dopamin-depleted chronic drug abusers, as well as by their central .alpha.2-adrenergic activity. I and II themselves do not induce dependence. Thus, in monkeys allowed to self-administer cocaine , the self-administration rate decreased to 0 after i.v. injection of I (0.1 mg/kg, twice). Pills were prepd. contg. I 50 .mu.g, lactose 38.45, corn starch 10.0, gelatin 1.0, and Mg stearate 0.5 mg.

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